

## FRS NEWSLETTER

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## FRS NEWS CORNER \*\*\* FRS NEWS CORNER

## FRS-HOLLAND ACTIVITIES

September 27th FRS-Holland took to the air between 0800-1100 UTC on 6242. A good signal was heard in large areas of Western Europe. The only disappointing thing was the poor reception in the UK which is a bit strange. Anyway, we received a nice amount of letters for that broadcast. Sunday October 18th would be the day FRS-H would

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS:

This is your FINAL Newsletter based on your current subscription which only covered the issues 118-120. Those who paid DM 2.50/E 1.00 extra, will soon receive the FRS info Booklet. In the past it often happened that people forgot to renew. That means a lot of extra work for US. In order to avoid this annoying situation we KINDLY but URGENTLY ask you to renew NOW! It's simple. Just send DM 10.00/ £ 4.00 V f 10,-. DO IT NOW and you secure this Newsletter until the end of 1999 (issue 121-124).

going to celebrate its 18th birthday. Due to circumstances the main programming had to be postponed till the following Sunday. Two hours of FRS celebrations went out via the SWRS outlet on 6280, 7590 and 11470 kHz (USB). In particular the 25 mb/s was doing very well in Western Europe. Our full 4 hours programming went out on the 25th between 0800-1300 UTC on 6240 kHz. Conditions that day were very good and apart from the last hour (singing) we had strong signals in several countries. The programme output consisted of music from the FRS 1980-1998, blocks of programme extracts, information etc. Everything went ok until 1250 UTC when technical problems forced us to close down. At that moment some 10 minutes were left. We received some 50 letters from a total of 9 countries including Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Scotland, England, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany & France. Most encouraging were the great number of positive comments about our programme output. That's what it is all about Sunday Dec. 13th FRSH tested a new mix on 6210. Tests started at 11:15 UTC following the close down of station EMJR, putting out a regular 24-hour show that morning. As far as we can see, the signal quality was satisfactory knowing it was only 50W we were putting out. Looking back at 1988 we may say it was quite an active year for FRS-Holland with a total of 7 regular and 40 Sunday broadcasts.

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES ON SW

The Dec. 13th test was in preparation for the X-Mas Party taking place next Sunday 0900-1330 UTC on a frequency in the 48 mb. In that programme a 60 min. FRS Goes DX Mx, great music (covering 4 decades) and many of the letters we received for our Oct. 25th broadcast. FRS will be heard mainly in German & English with Mark Jones, Peter Verbruggen and Joop ter Zee. A well-known former FRS presenter will return to the station around Easter 1999. Over the X-Mas period FRSH will also take part in the Second Contest Europe's Memorial Michel Raigneux (Dec. 18th Jan. 01). During the period FRS will be heard (among a great number of other stations) on one of these frequencies: 3605, 7590, 11470 or 21450 kHz (all in USB). In the New Year the test FRS activities will finish on January 24th (0300-1200 UTC) on a frequency close to 6240 kHz.

## NEW FRS-HOLLAND STATION LOGO

One of the highlights in October was the introduction of our brand new station logo. If you visit our website you will find out how it looks. The GSLs and stickers have been printed in full colour and each of you who dropped us a line in October will receive (free of charge) the new stuff.

## NEW JINGLES

Right at the moment a set of brand new English & German jingles are being produced. Peter V. wrote a complete set of lyrics which will be recorded on MiniDiscs in Austria and the USA. Joop ter Zee will be handling the mixing of the lines. FRS has a complete library of music beds and production elements to be used for any production work. In 1999 you will be able to hear the new FRS jingles.

## SW FREE RADIO SCENE

## CONDITIONS/GENERAL

In this final 1998 edition we cover the period mid September-mid December. In the past months conditions on 48 & 41 metres have gradually improved. In particular October saw a number of Sundays being ruled by (very) favourable propagation as a result a high number of stations were active and mostly heard in good quality. One example is Sun October 25th when no less than 30 different stations were to be heard on 48 & 41 metres. Also Nov. 1st a high number of stations was monitored. Sun Nov. 15th several Dutch powerhouses overran the SW 48 mb. Spaceman, TAR, Tonar, Tormack, RECH & VOIN, the Farmers and Blue Star. Makes a total of at least 4 W! The annual SRS SW Station Pop Poll resulted in Radio Cordiguz on 41. Substation sounds being 2nd, Radio Kosik International, 3rd, FRSH fourth and Radio Pinar. Radio Tormack shared the 5th position. With the upcoming X-Mas Season SW Free Radio activity will be at its peak. We have tried to include as much info regarding upcoming times as possible. On some Sundays a free radio chatroom for AOL users will be open in the evening UTC. Further info from <shino@ad.com>.

[1] RADIO ALINE, is to be heard almost every Sun on 6270 kHz. Broadcasts start early and usually end well before 1000 UTC. Since October RAI has a new transmitter with an output of no less than 550W. Future tests are planned on 6250, 6950, 11430 and also in the area of 15025 kHz. Address: see Radio Nederland. New Email is <nlinter@zendelco.nl>. There's a website under construction. <www.zendelco.nl>.

[2] Newcomer RADIO BANDONICA from the Eastern part of the Netherlands continues with regular early Sun morning broadcasts on 6275 kHz. Oct. 18th saw the station on the first early Sun 06:35 UTC. Power was approx. 45W, in the mean time a new 100W was in use. The first time with the new log book place on Sunday Dec. 01th when a strong signal was radiated on 6275. Add a same as Radio Al. VOTN & RECH. P.O. Box 633, 7500 AH Hoogeveen in the Netherlands.

[3] Sun Oct. 18th RADIO BENEUX (1) tested on 7480. Until a few years ago, 7480 was the station's test channel but BNL moved to 48 & 51 metres because of poor propagation on 41 metres. It looks like if the 41 mb is open for medium and long distances. Any keen SW OP will find enough suitable freqs for broadcast purposes within the 7300-7500 freq range. Since October BNL has frequently been noted on 7480 with mostly good results.

[4] The new address of RADIO BERNHARDT is P.O. Box 1136, D03201 Meersburg, Germany. Email: <bernhardt@freeside.nl>.

[5] RADIO BLACKBEARD (1) returned on SW Sun Nov. 22nd. The station was heard on 6260 with a 100W tx. Station OP Dave Nords made a phone-in morning phone call from Scotland and Germany. Signal quality was good.

[6] Dutch RADIO BLACK POWER was heard on 6180 kHz Sun Sept. 27th. Signal strength on the continent was very good. That same morning the station was also logged on 6280. It looks like quite a number of Dutch 48 mb broadcasters are making use of the chances offered on Sunday mornings. In the 6180-6200 kHz range. During the absence of powerful legal station owned stations like the BBC, the part of the 48 mb is left for use by SW Free Radio broadcasters. Stations like Blue Star, Union Radio, Alternative Radio already used freqs below 6200. For SW Free Radio DXers it's a good idea to also check this part of the dial.

[7] Dutch powerhouse RADIO BLUESTAR now has its very own website: <http://nl.bluostar.com>. New email: <bluestar@tip.nl>. Radio Blue Star is usually to be found on 48 & 51 metres with mostly strong signals. Sat. October 17th a test broadcast was carried out on 6185 following an earlier test on this freq. Sept. 23th. During the latter occasion a new 100W rig was put into service. Oct. 17th Blue Star was also heard on 6230 and 6910. Ever since Blue Star has been heard frequently on 6910. Sun. 16th Radio Blue Star tested on 6280 using only 50W of power. Conditions were good that day and a strong signal was provided. Sun. Nov. 8th a 30W 6910 test was conducted. A week later a test on 7480 (for signal) took place. On the 22nd of Nov. 6235 & 6240 kHz (all were being used). Dec. 13th saw more Blue Star tests on 41 metres on 7480 and 7550 kHz. The latter test gave a much better signal. Blue Star is aiming at a 24 hour broadcast with a 15 kW tx. Addr: <Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle (also being used by Testamir, Joop Zander & Daylora)>.

[8] Sun October 4th Belgian RADIO BRIGITE was heard on 6540 and 6571. So now and then Brigitte can be heard on 48 metres but quite often rather active on 40 and freqs outside the common 48 mb are being used. Sun Oct. 11th 6250 and 6264 were in use and Nov. 8th 6300 & 6258 (test). Address is: P.O. Box 10, 7594 ZG Rauwen in the Netherlands.

[9] Saturday September 26th BRITAIN'S BETTER MUSIC STATION was heard on 5794 kHz at approx. 2200 UTC. A German Service was aired and genuine German



schingers were played! BEIMS is making use of Cocone Radio facilities. According to our latest info BEIMS is on at Saturday nights on 6335 starting at 21:30 UTC. Most Sunday mornings 6198 is in use except the times Radio Pandora or European Music Radio are using 6200. Sign on is at 07:30 UTC. Sunday afternoon from 12:30 UTC onwards 7400 is in use according to BEIMS on a daily Monday to use 41 metres as propagation is at its peak during the earlier part of the afternoon. Sat evening Oct. 17th BEIMS was indeed to be heard on 6535 with a nice signal. Address is same as Cocone Radio.

■ **RADIO CITY FM (10)** was heard with a lengthy broadcast (good signal) on 6245 Sun Dec. 13th. The station is certainly an asset in the Free Radio world with a good programming consisting of music and information. Address is: [City.Rfm@web.de](mailto:City.Rfm@web.de) <[City.Rfm@web.de](mailto:City.Rfm@web.de)> Email <[cityfm@radio.com](mailto:cityfm@radio.com)> November 30th at 11:45 UTC City FM was asked by German authorities. A small 4W FM tx used for relay purposes was confiscated plus all out-equipment. The confiscated tx was releasing the City FM programming 24 hours a day on the new frequency 87.8 FM.

■ Sat evening Dec. 6th RADIO CLOC resumed on SW 3910 following a long absence. The station was also heard on 6256 Sun December 13th. Pcs contained a review of Free Radio in 1999. Content reports must cover a 15 minute period along with sufficient return postage (1 RO or one US dollar or 2x1,10 DM stamps). Address is Box 540101 in D-47151 Duisburg in Germany.

■ South American RADIO COCHIGUAZ was the winner of the FRS Station Pop Poll 1999. Congratulations! Oct. 25th saw the station with excellent signals on 6330 via Tormark & Nov. 8th on 6235 via Isth JRR.

■ **RADIO DAYTONA** was a rare catch on Sat. 29th. The station was heard on 6290 and later on 6273 kHz. In the early 80s there was a Dutch SW station calling itself Daytona but we are not sure whether there is any connection between this one and the 80s version. In the mean time the station is being heard quite regularly on 48 metres, for instance Sun Nov. 8th Daytona was on 6265 and on the 22nd on 6260. Add see Radio Blue Star.

■ **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** and **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** came out a mutual high power test (800W) on 7400 kHz on Sun Nov. 19th. At around 10:30 UTC the tx went silent because the antenna was damaged. The funny thing is the CPs themselves were not aware of the tx being off the air! A listener's telephone call from Bpurn (Dortmund) informed them that they were off the air. After checking the equipment it was discovered that the balun (centre part of the aerial) was burning. Nov. 28th saw a very brief but more successful test in the afternoon. Signal quality was excellent. Nov. 1st RECH was heard on 6255 with a good signal. Sun Nov. 22 RECH tested a new 100W tx on 6270 and results were excellent. They also have new Email addresses: <[voth@freemail.nl](mailto:voth@freemail.nl)> and <[voth@freemail.nl](mailto:voth@freemail.nl)>. Since a few weeks they have now also a homepage featuring its mighty tx capable of putting out 115 kW (cf. <[www.radio-dor.com/voth-magick](http://www.radio-dor.com/voth-magick)>).

■ **RADIO EUROWEST** is a new Dutch station being test heard on 6243 & 6260 Sun Nov. 14th. Also at later dates the station was logged on a number of 48 mtr freqs. No address known.

■ **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** was heard on 6200 kHz on Sun Oct. 4th. It seems the station is not very lucky with its recent broadcasts. The 6200 signal suffered from a high noise level, the mod didn't seem loud enough to overcome the problem. For the first time since more than 15 years a Swedish Service was part of the programme output along with shows English, German and French. Liking at the stations professional programming, the station deserves far more than the current poor support from the European SW Free Radio audience. Stations like EMR must be cherished as only few stations are able to provide the listeners with such wide variety of int. programming. Sun October 14th saw a brief EMR test consisting of int. station IDs on 6200 with the contention excellent signal. Also in Scandinavia the signal was heard in good quality. Further tests with the station's 120W (unmodulated carrier power) were noted Sun November 29th (6259) & December 6th (6260). Also these tests were successful with the signals in both UK and continent. Sun Nov. 1st EMR was on 6300 (relay) but heavy interference came from Blue Star on 6255. Sunday December 13th European Music Radio put out a full programming on 6210. Pcs commenced at 08:00 UTC and lasted till 11:15 UTC. Signal strength and modulation were very good making up a bit for the unsuccessful times earlier this year. It is to be hoped that the broadcast which was heard loud and clear all over Western Europe will produce the amount of likes the station certainly deserves. Just for your information, EMR has a very good looking colourful OSL and an informative in-phot giving you all info regarding the technical and programming side of the operation. Address is P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG Helten in the Netherlands. Chris Watson of Radio Garmisch-Radio 48 will be regularly testing with EMR programs on 31 mtr in the 9300-9400 kHz region. Mainly on 9350 kHz. The tests starts around 18:00 UTC.

■ **THE FANTASY RADIO NETWORK** tested on 6245 (and later on 6250) with a nice signal on Sun Dec. 6th. The Naito Transceiver GRC-9 is hearing output of only 10W. A week later a second test took to the air on 6235 and 6263. Pcs were in German & English. It planned to start official programming during the X-Mas days. Reports can be sent to: FRS-Germany in Holland.

■ **THE FARMERS FROM HOLLAND** are to be heard on 6284 since September. Why the move from 6300 to 6284? We contacted one of the people behind the Farmers who kindly explained to us that the Farmers were aware of causing interference to 'Reflections Europe' on 6285 in the late Sun afternoon and evening. A second session for sharing

frequency is that 6284 is clearer in the eyes of the Farmers. Address is Box 108 in 7200 AC Dalfen. Website: <<http://infofarmers>>

■ The current schedule of **RADIO 519** reads as follows: on Fridays 20:00-21:00 on 3600J, on Saturdays 07:30-08:30 on 7120J, 18:00-20:00 on 3965J and 20:00-21:00 on 3970J. Address is P.O.Box 510, CH-14010 Basel in Switzerland. Email <[slevis@radio519.org](mailto:slevis@radio519.org)>

■ **RADIO FLUX**, a relatively new Dutch station, was heard during numerous occasions, for example Wednesday September 23rd on 3925 and Sun Oct. 11th on 6255. Flux used to be an FM pirate but was forced to cease activities by the end of 1997. The OP moved to a new house and problems arose when he submitted an application for an antenna in his back garden. As a result the OP switched to SW after he read an article about pirates in the 70 mtr. Until that moment he didn't know about SW Free Radio stations broadcasting on 48 and 75 metres. And so it all started. He listened and started experiments after building his own 100W rig. This tx is capable of broadcasting on both 75 and 48 metres. Soon a self-reliant 300W FLU-controlled tx will become operational. According to the station OP there's not much to expect a test a proper aerial. But with some co-operation this problem seems to be solved. Sat Oct. 3rd at 18:30 UTC an antenna test was carried out on 3931 kHz. Sat Oct. 17th Flux was testing on 6280 announcing a phone-number. The following day 6285 was in use. During several other occasions the station was heard on 75 & 48 metres. Address is P.O.Box 24, 4160 CE Gouda in Holland.

■ **RADIO FREE LONDON**, the station celebrating its 30th birthday mid August, was heard during several weekends on 6305. November 1st RFL was broadcasting on 6305 kHz. That day a Halloween special was put out on 3 freqs including the aforementioned 6305, 5805 & 3945. Dec. 6th RFL was again noted on 6305 but the time not on 5805. Most likely the station will be very active over the Xmas period, remember last year when the station was putting out 24 hour a day 5 days a week between the 20th and 29th December. Address is 101B Kings Cross Rd, London WC1X 8LP, England. Email <[rfw@usa.net](mailto:rfw@usa.net)> Website <<http://193.162.100/kwael.htm>>. In the mean time RFL has been heard a number of times on 6335 kHz.

■ **RADIO RUSION INTERNATIONAL** from Sweden will hit the airwaves on Christmas Day and possibly also Boxing Day at 07:00 or 08:00 UTC. Frequency hasn't been decided yet but will be within 48 metres. 6210 kHz is a possibility. Power will be approx 180W. In the past RFI suffered from mod problems but the seems to be sorted out now. Add is P.O.Box 4680, 203 20 Malmö, Sweden.

■ **RADIO GUNSMOKE** (G) from the Netherlands was noted on 3910 Sat October 3rd. No less than 300W was in use resulting in a more than excellent signal. As a result of the increasing number of 'bad quality' (or even better) reports Gunsmoke has stated mentioning a special code within its shows. This code must be included in the reports. Sun Nov. 29th Gunsmoke Rtested on 6255, mod quality just much to be desired. In 1999 the station will return under its old name Radio Bordenhorst.

■ **RADIO INTERCTY** uses a new address: ob RFL, P.O.Box 520112, D-46207 Dortmund, Germany.

■ **INTERNATIONAL MUSIC RADIO** is from now on concentrating on 51 metres thus ceasing activities 75 metres. Maximum power of the current outfit is 200 Watts in SSB. The majority of IMR's future shows will be aired during evening/night on 5915 in USB. Pcs are not aired on any special day, just check 5915 around 19:00 UTC. At present time the station cannot be reached via Email, the alternative is sending reports by Fax 0049-7621-64259 or via telephone direct into the studio: 0049-171-755-27-15. Address is P.O.Box 1651, 76564 Weil am Rhein, Germany. Sat Oct. 31st IMR celebrated its 5th birthday with shows on 3600 and 7415 kHz. Congratulations!

■ **RADIO IRLS INT.** from the Netherlands was heard on 6308 Sun Nov. 22nd and 28th. Its used to be a famous Dutch pirate in the late 70s broadcasting on FM, MW & SW. We do not know whether this is the old Radio Irl from Amsterdam. Email add: <[its\\_radio@compuserve.com](mailto:its_radio@compuserve.com)>

■ **IRISH INDEPENDENT RADIO** is a new name in SW Free Radio land. The station was relayed via JRR on 6234 Sun Oct. 18th. Supposedly a Dutch address is in use P.O.Box 16599, 1001 AB Amsterdam.

■ **RADIO JOYSTICK** (J) has a new email address which is: <[joystick@hotmail.com](mailto:joystick@hotmail.com)>. Dec. 13th Joystick was heard on 6308, possibly via Radio Pandora.

■ **RADIO KORAK INT.** was to be heard with a bandwidth transmitter on Sat night October 10th. The usual 3620 kHz was in use and as always signal quality was excellent. What exactly the power is remains a secret. Last is it is very full in October & November 1999 was noted several times on Sat evenings. Dec. 5th saw the station for a while on 3979. Address is P.O.Box 134, 3780 BC Veenhuizen in the Netherlands.

■ **MAGIC SW** which was heard on 6281 Sun Dec. 13th is sharing the P.O.Box 1104, NL-8001 BC Zwolle from Blue Star.

■ **MAGIC WAVE RADIO** (10) tested on 6245 Sun Oct. 25th. A far signal was noted. MWK seems to be a Scandinavian project (?).

■ German **RADIO MARABU** had a busy weekend Sat Nov. 14th when tests were observed on 6210, 6281 and 7120 (FRS). A week later Marabu was again on 6210 kHz with nice signal strength. The station continues to provide a real musical alternative to the SW listener. Address is P.O.Box 1103, D-49187 Biele. Email <[radiorabubu@online.de](mailto:radiorabubu@online.de)> Website <[www.medio3.com/radiorabubu](http://www.medio3.com/radiorabubu)>



■ **RADIO MAXWELL**, was heard in fine quality on 7446 Sun Oct. 25th. Only 25 watts was announced, for instance Finland signal strength was very good. Sun Nov. 8th saw Max on 7413 kHz. Add is 64 Brighton Rd, Lokerse LES O-HA, UK.

■ **MOZART RADIO** is a new station hoping to make its debut show Boing Day Dec. 25th. 1998. Operator Johnny Sharp will emphasize on playing music from composers from a country that Austria did occupy during its Empires time: Bohemia and Moravia. If listeners do react in a positive way, they plan to have additional shows. Address is c/o FRI Europe 2 US dollars 2 FRcs/2x 1, 10 DM stamps for QSL-card and information.

■ **RADIO NEWSPAPER**, the port of view of Tonenwerk and Tonair was heard on 6270 Sun Oct. 25th but due to technical problems the station was forced to leave the airwaves. Signal was very good. Add is Box 47 in 7010 AA Goorden, the Netherlands.

■ **Sun October 11th RADIO NORDBEINT** (10) from Germany returned on 48 metres following a few months absence. The station was unable to use 6210 but instead used 6270 because German colleague Radio Marburg was on 6210 all weekend. The professional Nordbeint people live in Iceland and were offered the opportunity to call Signal strength was fine, so was the modulation. RN4 has planned a number of marathon broadcasts over the X-Mas Holiday Season, X-Mas & Boing Day. Day will see the station on air from 10:00-18:00 hours on 6210 and in addition there will be a special New Year's Eve broadcast in the evening hours on 75 & 48 metres. RN4 will also be heard on RM 68.9 (200 WATT) and 101.4 MHz (1 WATT) between X-Mas Eve and January 1st. Dec 31st saw "another" Nordbeint on 6211 giving out the P-Box 2209/7612 Oltersburg Germany address.

■ **QCEME RADIO** seems to be Britain's most active station at present time. The station is active on 75, 51, 41 and 48 metres. It is a pity that the station not really uses feed channels within the great deal of traps being used over the past few months. September 20th at just over 11:00 UTC the station was for a change observed on 7401. Broadcasts are being aired in cooperation with colleague station BEIMS. Currently the following schedule (roughly) is valid on Sun at 08:00 UTC on 6198, at 16:00 UTC on 5794. The station hopes to commence 41 mhz time at the moment the old 41 is converted. Possible future traps are 7301, 7365, 7400, 7420, 7480, 7500 or 7500 kHz. QCEME is looking for 80 mhz traps as well, traps wanted are 4910, 4930, 4935, 4940, 4960, 4980 & 4750. BEIMS-QCEME hopes to open up the band in the near future. Latest news: QCEME Radio started tests on 7180 kHz (8-10 UTC) and 7170 kHz (10-11 UTC). Address is 55D Chester Rd, London N19 5DF in the UK. Email: <btm@qceme.com> <btm@qceme.com>

■ **RADIO PANDORA** (10) was putting out pps on 6300 Sun Oct. 19th making use of the fact the Farnham has his QRG. Pandora's signal is usually far on the continent. Mod could be a bit louder. Nov. 1st 25th Pandora was on resp. 6207 and 6302.

■ In the FRS Newsletter #19 and in the Sept. 27th edition of FRS GOS OK, we mentioned the wrong address of German station **RADIO PERFECT**. We led it to spyglaze and here follows the one and only correct one: P-Box 1732, D-49578 Gronau. In addition (1) may also be used. Thanks to Werner Schuermann.

■ **PROJECT ONE** (1) is a collaboration between Dutch and German SW operators. It all started in 1997 and activities are taking place every 3rd month. Over the first October weekend the station was active on several 75 & 48 mhz traps including 3600, 3694, 6210/6245, 6250, 6260, 6270 & 6281. Stations such as Flux, Blue Star, Orchid, Oase, Star Club Radio, Freestyle, Free Willy, Dr. Tim, RTN, Dland and Penitit are involved with Project One.

■ **Q-103** was active on Saturday Oct 17th. At 17:30 UTC a far signal was noted on 6567 (LSB, 10303.3 (FSB) 3688 kHz (LSB) were also announced with nothing was audible on these traps. The broadcast was announced for the 10th. Sun Oct. 13th saw Q-103 on 10304 kHz but much of the signal was split by heavy QRM. Add (10) Email: <q103@hotmail.com>

■ A real rare catch on Sun Sept. 27th was a station calling itself **SENDER DAVID**. As early as 05:40 UTC that Sun morning a male voice did a speech in German covering the German political scene regarding violence and brutalization in the society and industrial disease the country, after a mouthful. The broadcast was noted on 6570 kHz. According to some sources it sounded like the ex-GDR underground stations of the 1990 to 1970s.

■ **SWING WAVE RADIO** (1) is the latest new station to be heard via the weekend relay service of the FRS in Italy. Saturday Oct. 3rd the station was heard on 3685 and 3690 kHz. And yes, this is yet another joint venture, the time Radio Wonderful and RMGP are involved. All the DJs of both stations were in the studio.

■ **SHORT WAVE ROCK** popped up on SW being noted on 6352 Sun Nov. 15th. The following Email add was announced: <rockradio@intercom>. Last known add is 9 Andrew Close Harriet, Essex IG8 2UG in the UK.

■ The **SHORT WAVE RELAY SERVICE** tested on 21:45 kHz USB October 10th. Usage traps are 11470U, 6280 & 7550. Main freq however is 11470. Since Sat Nov. 7th regular 75 mhz time have been started on 3605 kHz. Over the X-Mas/Holiday Season the SWRS will relay several SW free radio station taking part in the Second Century European Memorial Michel Raigneaux taking place between Dec. 16th and January 6th 1999. In the past times most catch as many free radio stations as possible. No press are to be won and the full details are available on the SWRS website. In addition you can order the complete info sheets from FRS-HV via the Internet mailing. The SWRS announced a great work of continuous programs on 11470 kHz (LSB) Email: <SWRS@usa.net> Website: <http://www.swrs>

■ **SUBTERRANEAN SOUNDS** was noted on 6302 & 6308 Sun Nov. 15th. Signals on the continent were far. The station features a lot of speech between the records. That makes the station quite different on SW. A phonon show was aired on 6257 Nov. 25th. Add is 5 Dolphin Court, Poole BH13 6-B in the UK.

■ **RADIO DR. TIM** was heard on 6297 and 6302 kHz Sun Oct. 11th. As this part of the dc is left by the Farnham, other stations are taking full use of the opportunity during the day 6302 or 6300 again. Nov. 15th saw Dr. Tim on 6247 & 6320. Dr. Tim is also active on 75 metres during Sat nights. Address is (1).

■ **RADIO TITANIC INT** (1) was heard with a Halloween special Sun Nov. 1st on 7490 kHz. For an updated version of the stations rich history, take a look at <www.ssf-jahrbuch> Email: <titanic@stapscap>

■ **RADIO TONERALK** tested on 6280 on Sun Oct. 18th. Signal strength was good but that was not the case with the mod quality, sounding rather distorted. Oct. 25th Toneralk was heard on 6281 and 7488. The latter is rather a strange freq knowing that Toneralk is mostly active on 48 metres. Sun Nov. 25th saw Toneralk on 6185. Add is P-Box 21 in 7010AA Goorden in the Netherlands.

■ **TONERALK** was heard on 6280 with very strong signals Oct. 25th & Nov. 15th. On the 15th the station was also briefly monitored on 6280 (1). Address is P-Box 21 in 7010AA Goorden.

■ **TRANCE SW** is a new Dutch station that first tested in the weekend of Nov. 14/15th. The 14th on 6344 and the following day on 6283. Regular weekly shows are planned Fridays. Broadcasts emanate from the Zwolle area and a Rohde & Schwarz 50W Vx is being used. A test was heard on Sun Dec. 13th, signal on 6235 was nice. Website: <http://www.trancesw.com/> and Email: <trance@trancesw.com>

■ **TRANSATLANTIC RADIO** has been noted various times on 75 & 48 metres. Sun Nov. 8th 5:55 was used and on the 15th & 22nd 6308. On the 15th mod quality was poor but the following week it had dramatically improved. Transatlantic Radio is planning a New Year's Eve Party on 3894 and 5795 kHz commencing at 21:00 U

■ **Tuesday October 6th** saw Dutch **UNION RADIO** testing on 6302 producing a strong signal. One day earlier at 20:00 UTC non-stop music was on and 6240 kHz. Sun October 11th the station was for more than 4 hours on 6240 kHz providing a more than excellent signal in Central and Western Europe. In particular the modulation quality was very bad and clear, something which still is problem dir for (too) many SW free radio stations. The station OP received many telephone calls during this live time broadcast. During the broadcast a different type of test was tested. Sun Nov. 8th & 22nd saw lengthy 3+ hour phonon shows on 6240 with excellent signals. Add is P-Box 558 in 7004AR Hogeveen in the Netherlands.

■ **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** was noted on 7494 kHz 1st makes Sun Oct. 11th. The station is now also on the Internet. Email address is <voen@intermail.com>. Address is P-Box 663, 7900 AR Hogeveen. Don't confuse it with P-Box 666, that's the one used by Union Radio!

■ **RADIO WAVES INT** was celebrating 15 years of SW broadcasts on Sun Nov. 15th 1998. Congratulations! Live pps went out on 11401 and 7494. In addition RWI was heard on 7590 via the FRS test in Italy. Sun Nov. 28th RWI produced a very good signal on 11401 and broadcastings were introduced produced by FRS. Jop for Zee. For details check their webpage: <www.magnet.fr/~waves/index.htm>

■ **Scotlands premier SW Free Radio station WAVEBAND MUSIC RADIO** was heard during several occasions on 7446 kHz. It seems this is the station's new best frequency in the past 4 weeks WMR didn't miss a Sunday on 7446 kHz. Signal strength on the continent is mostly fatigued. Email: <WMR@usa.net>

■ **WAVEBAND RADIO INT** from the UK now has new Internet add: <waverband@compuserve.co.uk> and <www.waverband.co.uk>. The station is regularly to be heard on 1225 kHz.

■ Many SW DXers will remember the infamous **X-MAS RADIO** from the Netherlands. The last time X-Mas Radio was active must be several years ago. X-Mas is a station only broadcasting during the X-Mas period and in the past several famous Dutch poets hosted guest shows on the station owned by Harbe the Fish. 1999 will see X-Mas returning to the SW bands. Pps are planned X-Mas Day and Boing Day on 48 metres. Address could be P-Box 343, 6500 AH Zwaanser in the Netherlands.

#### OFFSHORE RADIO NEWS

##### Annual Dutch Radio Day

The traditional and popular day will be taking place in Haarlem Sat March 20th. Freewave Media Magazine and Sicting Media Communicate join forces and will organize this event which has gained quite some popularity among free radio enthusiasts. If you'd like to attend the meeting, you can contact FRS and we will give you the exact location which is only a 10 minute walk from Haarlem railway station. Also in 1999, well-known guests will be attending the meeting and many interesting video tapes will be played. Put it in your diary. Sat March 20th 1999.

##### Offshore CD-Rom now available

The Summer CD-Rom entitled **Offshore MultiMedia** was published. This excellent CD-Rom contains no less than 225 websites, mostly complete, more than 2000 photos, 881 audiotapes and 10 videos. A vital part is the Encyclopaedia of Offshore Radio! produced by Jim Pakes containing much more info, photos, audiotapes and jingles. Unique is that each CD-Rom being ordered will contain the most up-to-date info which is available. German offshore expert Martin van der Ven is taking care of frequently updating the info. We can



strongly recommend this CD-Rom. It costs DM 65 and for info contact Martin by Email <vanderVen@t-online.de>

**Letter**

December will see Laser 558 back on the radio in the Dutch Rotterdam area on FM 106.5 MHz: it concerns original programme tapes recorded aboard the Communicator in the 1980s. These tapes were bought by a great laser fan. More info (history, audio extracts, photos, video etc.) on this website: <http://laserblazer558>

### Israel Broadcasting Authority to pay tribute to VOP

Monday October 16th the Israel Broadcasting Authority put out a special programme commemorating 15 years ago the famous Voice of Peace closed down for good. The Voice of Peace was an offshore radio station founded by Abie Nathan, broadcasting for more than 20 years from "The Peace Ship" anchored in international waters off Tel Aviv. During its broadcasting life it became a living legend employing many well-known UK presenters. Broadcasts that day on 88.1 to 94.4 commenced at 07.00 and lasted till 01.00. Pops were aired in English and Hebrew presented by former VOP jocks, many coming from abroad specially for the event. Many of the programmes associated with the VOP were issued, including *Drive Time*, *Twilight Time*, and *The Classical Music*. DJ Tim Shepherd was the broadcast starting at 7am with three hours of the British response was huge. The telephone lines were jammed for everyone involved and the listener at all wanted MORE VOP every day! Anytime you stepped into an Israeli or other local stations might like to look at Mike Barnes' Israeli Offshore Stations website: <http://www.mikebarnes.co.uk/IsraelOffshore.htm>

**Special broadcasts to celebrate 40 years of offshore radio**

Most likely many Offshore and Free Radio enthusiasts were scanning the LW, MW and SW dials last weekend vainly looking for a temporary weekend offshore station. What is the story about this project? FRS Goes DX reports.

A group describing itself as "an international group of friends of offshore radio" was planning a special broadcast, scheduled in the weekend of October 17/18th/06. Although some sources were talking about time legally authorised by a European country, probably on a special short basis – we now believe, a few weeks before the planned time would commence, the group announced in a press release its reason for being in there. It was said that during the 1968 summer, the first commercial radio station on board a satellite broadcasting of the European coast, Radio Mersur. This station reached ten thousands of listeners in Copenhagen and Malmö. By using the freedom of the international waters, the monopoly of the state operated broadcasters was shattered. Finally, Radio Mersur had to cease operations. The same happened with all the other valley wireless stations that followed the idea of operating from the high seas. In the years to come, there were different reasons for their failure. But in some countries, offshore radio led to changes in media policies. Commercial radio was introduced on shore. But strange things happened as these new local and nationwide stations did not want to share their audience with the offshore based competitors. The international group of friends of offshore radio wanted to reinsert this important part of the European media history. Non-commercial broadcasts would be emanating from a ship in the North Sea. Name of the station: **OFFSHORE 99**. The news about this interesting initiative spread through social media like wildfire. Quite understandable knowing the press release was to be read on various popular radio-related websites, for example RadioMan, the Offshore Pages from Martin van der Verme and UK-based Newcastle. Reliable sources however reported that the English and Dutch authorities were fully aware of the project and possible actions could be taken. We now realise that due to which North Sea spot was chosen as an anchorage for the intended broadcast service. Also the people behind this project are shrouded in mist. Broadcasters would have been taken aboard on the vessel *WGS, Medium Wave 1666 and Short Wave 8210* was monitored while being broadcasted. The vessel's 41 m frequency was going to be used. The reason fans had to be concerned was the weather conditions last weekend. Force 9/7 winds blow over the North Sea and thus the main reason the ship didn't leave the harbour. At this moment we cannot reveal if and when a new attempt will be made. It is a fact this time of the year is not very favourable because of the infamous cold face winds.

**RADIO CAROLINE**

Like the Radio Caroline has bounced back this year. After a decade in which its broadcasts were confined mainly to RSLs, the station can be heard on a regular basis via satellite, DAB & short wave. Since October, the station is on air with weekly shows every Sunday between 10.00-18.00 UTC. These times are being placed on the Astra 1C via the EKRK transponder 38, 10.094 GHz-H audio subcarrier, 7.3 & 7.55 MHz M and parallel in DAB, the new future standard equaling CD quality. For Peter Moore is dream has come true. Sunday Nov. 15th Radio Caroline took their regular Sunday satellite DAB broadcasts a step further later this month, with the first of three dedicated digital broadcasts. The Sunday output is, normally coming from the EKRK studios but, first Sunday program was carried from the M/R Ross Revenge and anchored off the Isle of Shetland. It was the first time a dedicated digital broadcast from the radio ship's own satellite. The signal from Caroline was then EKRK studio, via a dedicated digital link, to the EKRK studios, onwards by satellite (with DAB and FM relay) as normal. DAB is only available in the London area at the moment. Radio Caroline's station manager Peter Moore said "We are delighted to be able to use new technology such as DAB, without how wide we can

more opportunities for regular broadcasting in the future. Our prime slot with GNR, which gives us access to a large European audience as well as state-of-the-art studios in *Walthamstow*, is working extremely well. We have been inundated with calls and feedback from our first broadcast. Speaking about the future of ship-based broadcasting on the 15th March added: 'We want to let our regular listeners know that despite the satellites and digitality, we'll always follow our roots.' Caroline's broadcast line-up on Sundays includes Johnny Vegas, Steve Conway, Dave Foster and Nigel Harris, all of them worked for the station during its offshore days. Radio Caroline has been chosen by BBC radio manufacturers Grundy as the ideal broadcaster to attract early adopters of the technology. In a deal announced earlier this month, Grundy have sponsored Radio Caroline's broadcasts on DAB until the end of the year, and are also providing a top-of-the-range DABSDS digital car set for commercial use at the station. A spokesman for Grundy commented: 'We are delighted to be working with one of the best known radio stations in the world, to promote digital ads. With the recent launch of DAB receivers by a number of manufacturers, and the beginning of the commercial licensing process, the time is right to start promoting the technology now. We are sure Caroline's unique audience profile will help us reach the people who are most likely to want to ads the new and exciting DAB technology.'

Peter Moore explains the image of the Radio Revenge (the Radio Caroline ship) as a museum piece, silent and stilled by a casket crew is no longer accurate. On Sunday for example, while one team was presenting the live programme from the EKR studio at Midslope, another was busy mooring Murel Murel broadcasts in Studio 2 on board the ship, while Studio 1 was in use making programmes for an Irish station who had rented our facilities. Meanwhile, technical crew were on board rigging up an antenna for an RSL station which is renting the ship and studios later this year. Such is the demand for studio time on board Caroline, that the engineering team are considering rebuilding and using Studio 3 (the old Overseas/Vacpoint studio) which has not been in use since before the 1989 riot by the Dutch authorities. The live programming every Sunday is opened by Jimmy Lewis who is nowadays on EKR and Radio Caroline. Jimmy certainly adds something to the Caroline programming and it's good to have him back on a weekly basis. Every week there are guests from the past and that makes listening very entertaining. The nostalgia content is still high. Besides, great classic rock is being played. At all in it's more than worth while listening to Caroline's Sunday satellite output. In the mean time Caroline is also to be heard on Merit Network. One who started up a new 7 day a week satellite service is day service Monday 1000-13th. An SW 6015 Hz late Sunday, Wednesday 21st Caroline started starting at 17:00 UTC on SW 6015 Hz late Sunday. It was Peter Moore hosting the first broadcast. Jimmy Lewis, Ramsey Reese and the new Murel Murel service chances for Caroline are better than ever before. Both on both satellite and SW. At present time Caroline can be heard on Wednesday evenings between 6 and 8pm. Mid November the FRS Newsletter will follow the following Caroline Newsletter which we publish in it.

## JOHN WALKER'S TURNING POINT

Caroline most famous and most loyal DJ Johnnie Walker was back on the Ross Radio on Friday 5th of November with a BBC 6am record slotting for the series 'Turning Point'. Various obstacles have been asked to devote their moments in their lives and for Walker this was August 14th 1987 when he was one of the few to visit with Radio Caroline at the moment when the station was seized by government legislation. This decision made him unemployed in the UK for many years. However and at one stage even though he had been visited the most popular DJ in Britain by the general public he was reduced to driving a truck. Walker stood at the bows of the Ross Revenge, listen to the spot for some 15 minutes, pulled the anchor in mind of Leonardo DiCaprio on the doomed Titanic as he was lined from several angles. Now Walker has a regular weekday programme on UK's Radio 2 which has recently overtaken both Wogan and Radio 2's audienaires.

LIVE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTS

EX Caroline staff John Lewis, Nigel Harris and Dave Foster assisted by Caroline Martin and Dave Asher who now produce Caroline programmes on the satellite channel also used by European Kiosk Rock, were presenting the first international programmes on board the Ross Revenge this decade. These live shows were aired Sunday November 19th at the end of the day. Steve Conway took over programming from the EHR studio (high quality tapes of this notable moment can be obtained from FRS Sales productions).  
NEW SHORTWAVE RELAY

At the time of writing, I doubt if this has been just confirmed that a new Carlsberg service will commence tests on Sunday Nov 15th, mirroring the ships output on 6940 kHz SW. This is in the 435 Mile band. The test will run from 11 am to 2:00 pm but successfully will commence each Sunday for the full eight hours that Carlsberg is on the EPR satellite. Listeners in Europe are invited to tune 6940 and to forward reports locally. These can be phoned to the EPR service on 09522689400. Outside of the UK, 44-1522689400. Alternatively Email to <[info@carlsbergcable.dk](mailto:info@carlsbergcable.dk)>. Remarks from FRSNAL: Carlsberg was noted on 6935 and 6940 on Sunday November 15th. However, we cannot confirm that the Carlsberg service is now on 6940 kHz. We do not know what beacon and power was used. If you have heard any broadcasts on 6940 kHz.

## THE HISTORY OF RADIO CAROLINE



The reveal history missing for so long from your favourite radio site is now on line. Written by station manager Peter Moore it is the definitive story of Radio Caroline in all her different guises and is essential reading for all Caroline fans. Contact the station via internet <[www.radiofromaround.co.uk](mailto:www.radiofromaround.co.uk)> or post at 438 Ashway Road, London NW4 4JL, England

### NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

#### MERLIN NETWORK ONE

Plans to commence a 24-hour World Service have become reality. Test transmissions were carried out October 13th and 14th. The proposed start would be on Thursday October 15th but had to be cancelled because all the necessary paperwork wasn't completed in time. Contacts had to be arranged and signed resulting in a 4 day delay. The station will be broadcasting around the world on satellite and showwaves. Interesting to know is that Radio Caroline and The Rock Radio Network will be part of the MNO programme schedule. The full service of MNO offers a wide variety of programming and is to be heard on the Asiasat satellite. According to MNOs Eric Wilsner "It is a combination of contributing stations and home-grown programmes from Merlin Network One". He added that the MNO operation includes state-of-the-art studios and outside broadcast facilities using the latest technology featuring computer technology. I know I haven't been quoted as being computer. There will be two specific music studios and a sound area as well. All that will be connected to a brand new computer control system that will enable contributing stations from around the world to access the network at the right time. The station can be heard on Asiasat channel 38 which corresponds with 10847 GHz using the 7.39 & 7.58 audio subcarriers. For full broadcasting details, see the MNO website <[www.merlinmno.com](http://www.merlinmno.com)>. Merlin was formed on 27 March 1997 following the UK Government's decision to privatise the BBC's transmission network. Merlin was founded to carry out all technical engineering work connected with BBC activities. With over 85 years experience Merlin delivers a range of broadcast and communications services including distribution by satellite, consultancy and project management services, facilities management and a comprehensive fleet of transmitters.

#### EUROPEAN CLASSIC ROCK

ERR lost a number of presenters because of cutbacks. Night Tracks disappeared and so did Alan. Another who presented the nighttime show Alan moved to London Liberty Radio. Another who left is Bob Moore, his currently on Throat Loat Radio where he replaced former Caroline and Indigo Dave Jimmy Lewis.

#### APPLICANTS FOR HIGH POWER LICENSE

The 39 year battle for a high power radio station on the Isle of Man reached historic milestones Friday when the Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company Ltd submitted its proposals to the Islands Communications Commission to operate the station with 500 kilowatts on 27% efficiency an NRI for the UK, but in fact serving a much wider area. Among iMIBC's plans are a studio and office centre in Ramsey near the station's 50 staff and over a dozen possible benefits for the Isle of Man. The station name is being kept confidential for the time being in order not to dilute the impact of its launch. It will be aimed at adults aged 25 to 60 and employ several well known radio names and celebrities as presenters on the station, which should launch next year. A former Swinging Radio England deputy will be appointed programme controller, his very experienced and for almost 33 years in the radio industry. As he's still bound by contract to other station, his name will be kept secret for the time being. According to the Dutch magazine FRAM, former Laser 558 female presenter Jessie Blanton will be joining the on air staff of the new station. The station's executives have a wealth of radio and music business under their belts and are led by John Ross-Barnard, whose radio career began at sea in the 1950s and includes many years with the BBC, on air as well as in management. He was more recently responsible for selling up SWNS, the satellite delivery network and has recently been supervising launch of new media initiatives in the former Yugoslavia for the European Union. The company's founder is Paul Rusing, who has been involved in licensing, development and engineering at many major and minor radio companies, but who started his career as a DJ on Radio Caroline in the early 1970s. "This has been a long battle," said Paul, who is the company's Chief Executive, who has spent much of the last four years commuting between several European cities, lobbying at Westminster, the EU in Geneva and countries such as Tunisia and Belarus, all of whom had objected to the Isle of Man broadcasting. "There was tremendous opposition to the Isle of Man having its own international voice, but we were certain that the obstacles put up previously in the UK were no longer valid and that it would only take a matter of time before we were there," he said when the frequency finally came through earlier this year. "It cost a fortune in legal bills, but an important part of progress was to make it clear that the ending prospect of the island finally having its own powerful voice." iMIBC was formed in 1994 to lobby the UK Government to drop its objections to such a station on the island. As long ago as 1959, the Isle of Man Government has been asking for permission to licence such a station and there have been many high powered delegations to London over the years to get a stronger frequency for Manx Radio. London always refused, and have said a variety of reasons. "The most ludicrous reason put forward was that such a station would 'steal' listeners from the LR stations in the UK, an excruciatingly old argument that Atlantic when that station launched," said Paul in a recent year. In recent years the Radio Authority, which took over commercial stations such as Virgin and Talkradio, asked one frequency which iMIBC had proposed, 225 LW, although it has not brought it into use, despite there being

firm interest from over a dozen UK radio groups. The team also includes Rick Walsman who is currently hosting a programme on BBC Radio 2 as well as several TV programmes. He is joined by Dave Cousins, leader of The Swallows and who has also managed several stations and been involved in radio licensing development for QLT. Dave will be the station's Head of Music. They propose playing both contemporary and older music, but not restricted to Top 40 hits. Several of iMIBC's team are still working in radio elsewhere and their identities will be kept confidential until notice periods are worked out.

#### INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

iMIBC believe that 279 Long wave signal will reach as far as Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam, but plan to boost reception still further by broadcasting on satellite and short wave to other parts of the world. "We plan to use a network of former BBC World Service transmitters which will send the station's signal into Australia and North America, as well as some FM stations in other places such as the Cote d'Azur," Rusing explained. "It's very important that the station be seriously international and not just a station broadcasting to the UK, as the Broadcasting Act 1993 doesn't allow the island to licence such a station." "I think it's very interesting to note that many of the big developments and changes in British radio have come about as a result of activity from outside the UK," said Rusing. "Like Luxembourg brought sweeping changes to the BBC over its half a century of serving music-starved British audiences, then the offshore stations had their on-air, pre-empting Radio One and commercial radio. In the 1980s, Laser gave radio another shake up, helping to end nighttime restrictions and the 50-60 speech ratio from music stations, not to mention our joining wavelength in favour of frequencies" iMIBC, PO Box 279, Ramsey, MB9 4HT, UK. Email <[iMIBC@broadcast.net](mailto:iMIBC@broadcast.net)>. (Thanks to Hans Knoll-Freewave & Paul Rusing)

#### The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company

The site is seen as a way of making information about the company and its plans for the licence available to both Isle of Man residents and potential listeners overseas. Content on the site includes a listing with biographical details of company executives, as well as some details of proposed coverage and programming plans. The proposed station is also running its trial competition - via the web - offering the chance to win an all-expenses-paid trip to the island in return for filling in a simple survey form. iMIBC Chief Executive Paul Rusing comments: "The licensing of a new longwave station from the Isle of Man is of interest to many people, both on the island and elsewhere in Europe. We're delighted that by using the power of the internet, we can provide information about our plans in this process to the widest possible audience." "We will be updating the site frequently throughout the next few months so that the latest developments are always covered," Rusing added. "You will find the iMIBC website at <<http://www.bmwave.com>>."

#### CLT APPLY FOR LONG WAVE LICENSE (UK)

CLT-UKA have applied for the Isle of Man high power longwave licence, proposing a station which will be called Indigo 279. The Indigo application is backed by a consortium including CLT (owners of Atlantic 252), CSEA Broadcast Investments and Cominorip. Indigo say that they will not only broadcast "an attractive broad based programming format of Classic Hits (music from the last four decades and today) coupled with news and lifestyle information", but will also benefit local Man businesses and residents. The Isle of Man International Broadcasting Company has also lodged an application, as have others - a full report will be given here in a couple of days, once the iMIBC authorities release the details.

#### The latest on Radiolex

##### Commission decides to give radio to government

On Sept. 8th the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg examined the question of admissibility of Trevor Brocks application for licensing his SW project Radiolex. Many years ago Radiolex was pulling out legal broadcasts from Ireland. After Radiolex was forced to close down by the Irish authorities, Trevor Brocks applied for an official SW licence in the UK but the authorities consistently refused below him to continue Radiolex on legal basis. Trevor Brocks decided not to give up and took the matter up with the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg. They now have decided that notice should be given to the Government of the UK, and their observations invited in regard to a possible violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. In the case Trevor Brocks asserts that by refusing to licence an independent short wave radio station the government unreasonably and persistently stifled media development, to the detriment of the public and in breach of article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Trevor made his first application for a licence 12 years ago, August 1985. Since 1987, Trevor Brocks has been running a company, Sunley Electronics Ltd., which specialises in research and design of products for the broadcast industry. Trevor Brocks comments: "This is more encouraging news from Strasbourg. If any other people have documents on the subject I would be most pleased to hear from them and add to the evidence." Early December we received another update. Sept. 18th the courtified the UK government to submit its views about a possible violation of human rights. They responded to this request by asking the court for an extension to the usual time limit set down for the process. This extension has subsequently been granted by the President of the Third Chamber. Trevor comments that "A request for extra time is



often read as an indication that the other side is having some difficulty justifying their position". You can contact Trevor by telephone: 1483-275-687 or via Email: <se@netherlands>. Streetmail address is: Sunny Electronics Ltd, The Forge, Carleigh, Sunny, GU6 7BG in England.

## MADE IN HOLLAND

## SEPTEMBER

Early September the Dutch Government assigned 33 FM and 7 AM frequencies to 18 regional commercial radio stations. Eighty stations had applied for these frequencies. It is expected the lucky winners will start using their frequencies towards the end of the year. Stations like Rebacca Radio (Northern and eastern part of the country), Sun FM and City FM (Western part) and 9FM (Southern region) gained most frequencies. One of the stations getting an AM frequency is Quality Radio. This application was to bring a station on the air called Radio Caroline. They will be broadcasting in the very Northern part of the country on a frequency of 1602 kHz. Power will be 15 kW. One of the initials of the station is Bob Nokes, who has been working for the last Caroline back in the seventies. The station will be working with young talent. No big names from the past will be joining A UK enterprise is backing the station financially. The name of this company hasn't been revealed yet. The assignment is temporarily until September 1<sup>st</sup> 2000. Then the entire frequency spectrum will be re-evaluated. Radio 538 suffers from departure of deays. Most popular jock Ruud de Wit and very experienced Michael Platzecky are leaving the station. Ruud will join the new public broadcaster BNN while Michael will get a job at a commercial media enterprise. More and more the station is using the people who helped it to overcome its first, difficult years. Public broadcasters are using the Internet to spread their programmes more and more. VPRO Radio shows us how pop radio can be made, while NCRV creates Buzz radio to promote its programmes made for national public Radio 3. Talking about public radio station Radio 3: 45% of the audience thinks radio 3 is a commercial radio station, while news station Radio 1 is recognized as a public broadcaster by 84%. Music means commercial, talking is equal to public broadcasting...

Talk Radio 1305 AM has been transferred into Business News 1305 AM. By fall September. Reason for this move has been the very bad financial position of the station. Some fifteen people had their jobs. Only some 200,000 people listened to TR every week. Advertisers considered this audience too small to buy commercials on the station. Emphasis on financial news has lost another, broad audience.

## OCTOBER

On October 14th, a stormy and rainy day, the MV Communicator, former vessel of the aghies station Laser 558 Laser hit the, moved to a new anchorage. The ship was taken by two towing vessels: the MV Meerland and MV Spitzbergen from its current anchorage. Since 1995 the Communicator was anchored at the dyke just south of Enkhuizen. Some 60 people were invited to take part. During the journey, QFM was broadcasting live from the Communicator, the studio aboard was used for the first time since 1987. Since QFM's broadcasts were to be heard in AM taking 1224 AM over from Veronica, the ship was rented. Unico Globe, Veronicas managing director who was one of the invited people, admitted that Veronica had seriously considered the idea of starting a touring outfit for people willing to start working for a radio station. But in the end this plan had to be cancelled because it needed an enormous investment to fully prepare the ship for this job. Late in the afternoon the Communicator reached its new destination in the Amstel Pampus harbour. Moving the ship was a tough job which took quite some time. Nearly 4 years ago Veronica paid 10 million guilders, QFM, the new owner only paid a nominal amount. Unico Globe expressed that the transfer of the Communicator meant an end of the Veronica ship era. The new moving coincides with a new ownership. For the last year I was invited by QFM from Veronica and it is now sold to QFM. Unico Globe, director of Veronica, officially handed the ship over to QFM's director Peter Jensen. Quality Radio is broadcasting on 1224 AM using a state-of-the-art digital Harris CDS60 transmitter. The ship is leased from the Dutch Nostris.

## NOVEMBER

This month we start in Belgium. Rumours are circulating the Corsendonk brewery is intending to start a cable station. Firstly the name Supergold was mentioned, while later

Radio M Armpo would become the station's name. However, this name appeared to be registered. The new name has become Radio Meddiana, referring to the last ship of the last Radio M Armpo used back in the Summer of 1979. Only for some weeks, until the vessel ran aground. Apart from the name, the new station and its initiators don't have any connection with the former offshore station. A station that certainly did have ties with the former Radio M Armpo has been Radio Meusa. This landlocked station, using high-powered transmitters, gained a lot of success in the early Eighties. The station covered most of the Belgian territory and even could be received in the Southern part of Holland. Key figure behind the scenes was Patrick Vanden (Patrick Van Acoyden), who has been one of the major people in the M Armpo management. The new Meusa will be called Veland and will also be broadcasting via cable. These aren't many details available, but it seems some well-known personalities will join the station. The Dutch commercial stations are doing very well. Their common market share is 44.3%, compared with 33.3% for the public stations. All this despite the fact the commercial stations still have minor means (less transmitters and frequencies). However, gradually they are expanding their coverage. Radio 538, Radio 10 Gold and Veronica already got more, or more powerful transmitters. And now Radio Noordzee National is on the move! They moved their 50 kW 102.5 FM transmitter to a more eastern part of the country, to enlarge the covered area, while the transmitter in Groningen has been uplited in power. Above all this there are plans to establish two additional transmitters in other parts of the country. Tuesday November 17<sup>th</sup> a public hearing has been held to pay attention to some 30 objections against the assignment of frequencies to commercial regional stations. Very soon after this meeting stations like HOT radio, Rebacca and 9FM started their transmissions on FM. In case you want to read and HEAR more about Dutch radio, then you should visit <http://www.es.nl/telecom>.

## NEW DUTCH COMMUNICATIONS LAW??

Friday Oct. 2nd the editorial staff of Mediasite, a new weekly Esme spread via the Internet, brings an interesting story about the future for commercial offshore radio stations. Until a few years ago it was simply inconceivable believing the Dutch government would assign every possible frequency being available to commercial radio stations. Nonetheless this same government is energetically giving orders for technical research mapping every possible frequency not being used. Imagine our surprise knowing that a new Telecommunications law is being prepared perhaps coming into force before the end of this year. In the mean time different Dutch governmental services are strongly arguing about these plans. Fact is that some of them are seriously taking exception to the new law. The so-called Rijksdienst voor de Radiocommunicatie - the body monitoring & controlling the airwaves - is not happy at all with parts of the proposals. It remains to be seen for Dutch citizens to give assistance to broadcasts from ships outside territorial waters. Dutch companies risk heavy penalties when advertising on such stations, the same applies to supplying radio vessels. But, the new law legalises the possession of transmitting equipment. This is a very significant change because in such case a Dutch port can be used for equipping radio ships. Imagine you have a legal cable or Internet station, enabling you to sell commercial airtime. You make a contract with a foreign company, its country not having any anti-offshore law. You agree that the foreign company will be investigating the possibilities of getting your signal into the Netherlands. Mind your, legally you haven't ordered to moon a ship on the high seas. Then the legal satellite, cable or Internet signal will be relayed from a ship in international waters. Advertisers can legally advertise on the satellite, cable or Internet but not audible via the ship as well. Of course the advertiser didn't give any orders to do that keeping out of sight. Then the supplying of the ship, forbidden for Dutch citizens but not for foreigners. You can even switch be off outside the territorial waters and satellite the necessity by port where the ship can be supplied with food, spare parts etc. As long as no Dutchmen are aboard, the Dutch authorities cannot undertake any legal action. So far so good. The Telecommunications law just described is only a proposal. The Dutch Lower House must take the final decision whether it will be accepted or not. The Rijksdienst voor de Radiocommunicatie sees every opportunity to lighten it bit. One of their proposals is that you only may possess transmitting equipment when having a certificate proving you are allowed to keep it in your house. In case the ROR was the ball it will remain the same, nothing will change. We will wait further developments and keep you in the picture.

Now from FRS SALES PRODUCTIONS three high quality Radio Caroline cassettes featuring the station's live output from Sunday Nov. 15th 1998 when the first Int. Caroline programming from the Ross Revenge went out on satellite. Listen to great pos from Johnny Lewis, Steve Conway, Nigel Harris and others. 270 minutes on three C-90s for DM 29.90/£ 9.95/¥ 29.90.

THE FRS NEWSLETTER/ FRS-HOLLAND WISHES ALL OF YOU A VERY MERRY X-MAS & A GREAT 1999. WE HOPE 1999 WILL BECOME YOUR BEST YEAR OF THIS DECADE.